



Aquatic Weed Control Program

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Noxious aquatic weeds are non-native invasive species that often have a detrimental effect on our water resources.



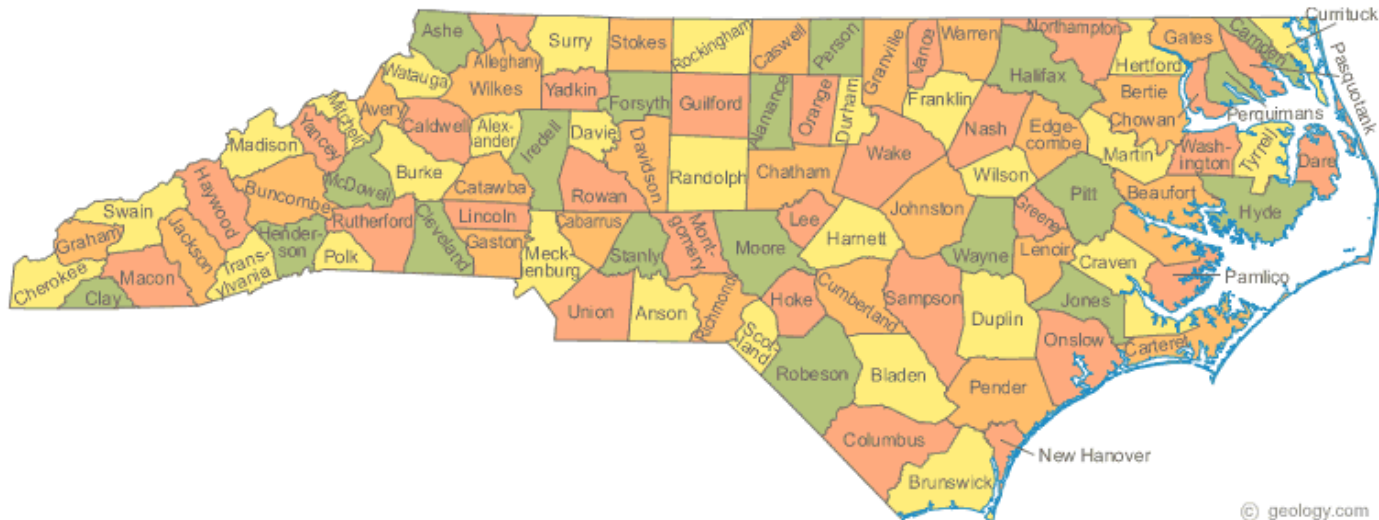


Who is Impacted in N.C.?

Almost every county in N.C. is negatively impacted by Aquatic Weeds !

Large Bodies of Water:

- Albemarle Sound
- Chowan River
- Kerr Lake
- Lake Gaston
- Lake Norman
- Lake Waccamaw
- Pasquotank River
- Lake Santeetlah
- Badin Lake
- Jordan Lake
- Tuckertown Lake
- Cape Fear River
- Roanoke Rapids Lake
- Tar River Reservoir
- And more....



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How does it Spread

- Boats and other contaminated equipment moving from lake to lake.
- People intentionally introduce, unaware of them being nuisance species.
- Birds and other wildlife.
- Water carries seeds or fragments downstream.

Photo to right: Alligatorweed





Risks

- **Public health & safety**

- Taste and odor issues in municipal water.
- Stagnant water ideal for mosquito breeding.
- Water flow issues leading to flooding.



- **Negative Economic Impact**

- Interference with recreational activities such as fishing and boating.
- NC has 1.5M anglers who expend \$1.5B annually.
- Property value.

- **Threatened and endangered species and ecological imbalance**





Rocky Mount: Tar River Reservoir infested with Hydrilla.



Public water supply for 58,000+ citizens
and 6 other public water systems.





Wilmington, NC: Water Hyacinth infesting Greenfield Lake in 2010



Floating mats caused paddleboat rentals to shut down.



Kitty Hawk Bay in 2010



Eurasian Watermilfoil degrading property values.



Lake Waccamaw, NC

Hydrilla infesting ~600 acres



AT RISK:
6 endemic aquatic species found no where else in the world!



How the Legislature Has Responded

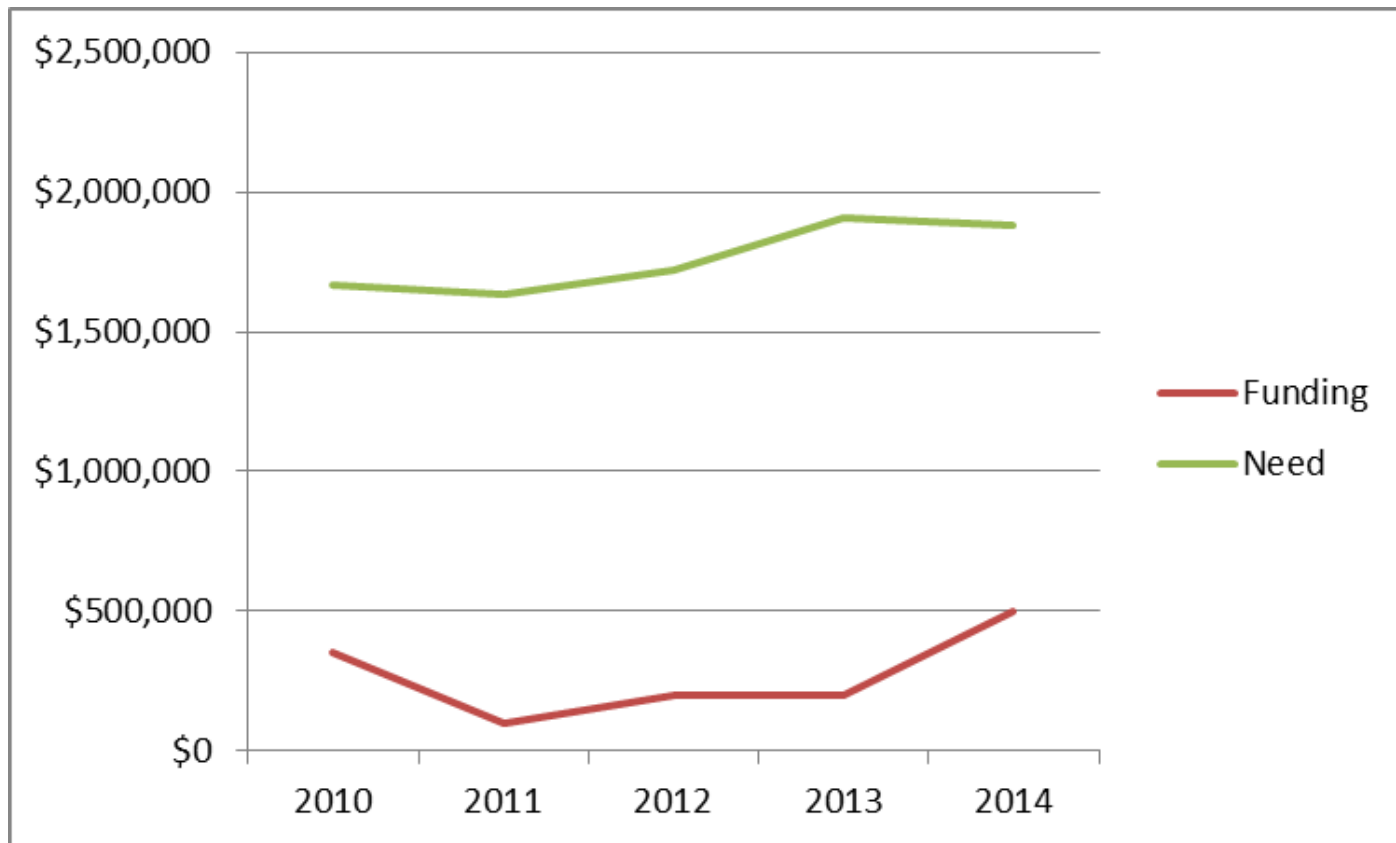
Creation of the Aquatic Weed Control Program

- Program Benefits: Provides recommendations and implements management activities
- Annual Budget: Up to \$500K + matches
- Staffing: 1 FTE + 1 temporary (Seasonal)
- Program Model: Reactive vs. early detection
- Project tenure: Often 10+ years to eradicate.
- Financial and operational assistance provided to:
 - Local govt. (County & Municipality)
 - Soil & Water Districts
 - Drainage Districts
 - Public Utilities
 - Government Agencies





Program Funding Gap





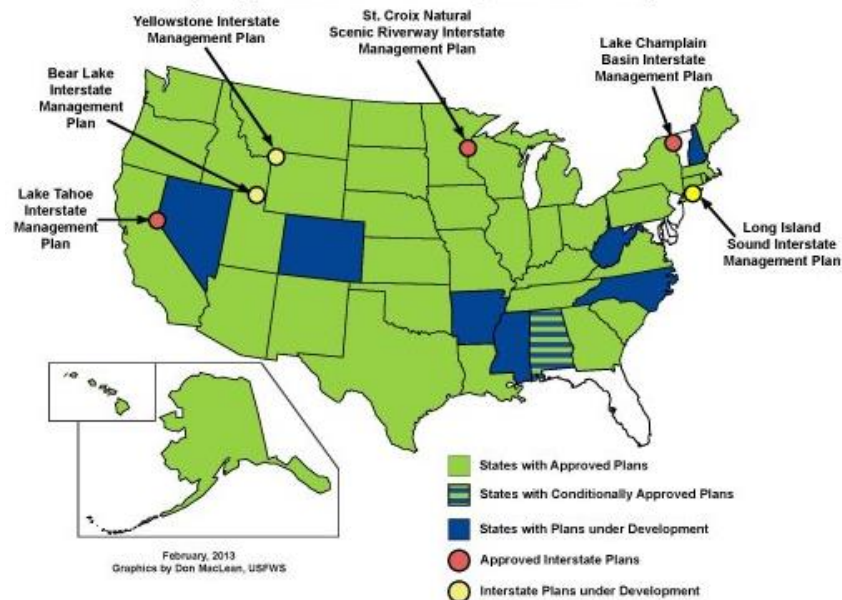
What is the state of the State?

- × Demand exceeds available funding since ~2010.
- × NC currently 1 of ~10 states without a statewide ANS Plan.

State-Wide ANS Plan Being Drafted (BIG win for NC):

- ✓ Multi-Agency collaborative effort between:
 - NCDENR
 - DWR
 - DCM
 - DMF
 - NCDA & CS
 - NCSU
 - NC WRC
 - US F&W
- ✓ Tracking for completion Summer 2015.
- ✓ Approval positions NC to be eligible for federal funds.

Status of State ANS Management Plans (41 Approved Plans - 38 State, and 3 Interstate)





Moving Forward

What do we need from the Legislature?

- Modification of current language: Currently only allows for treatment in “lakes of the state”.
- Approval of Governor’s Budget funding for Aquatic Weed Program will help close gap and begin ANS Plan implementation.





Questions?

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Lake Gaston, NC
Recreational Lake Plagued with HYDRILLA

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